

larger number than usual), at which speeches might be made by eminent graduates, and those who were officers and active members of the society in ye olden time. Incidents might be rehearsed relating to the organization of the society and accounts given of its proceedings in former years. Such a meeting would certainly be very interesting, and would be the means of bringing many together in friendly conference, who had not met since separating after graduation. The proper way to organize such a meeting is to give it in charge of an efficient committee of the society to correspond with gentlemen who are likely to be here, and to make all necessary arrangements. We hope the committee will be appointed immediately.

ELOCUTION, in its theory and practice, is a subject too much neglected in these days. Often as this fact has been stated and strongly as the need of improvement has been urged, we are not yet thoroughly alive to its importance. That in-artistic style of elocution, which is a discordant bawl when not a monotonous drawl, is still in the majority. And yet the value of manner is inestimable. How much does the worldly success of every man—though treading some more sequestered walk of life—depend on manner? How often do we meet men, removed without the circle of publicity, whose winning address seems their sole passport to prosperity? How much more important, nay, how essential are the graces of manner to that man who, as a public speaker, becomes, for hours at a time, the cynosure of a thousand eyes; his every gesture, attitude and tone appealing to his auditors and, if apt, enforcing with redoubled significance the subject of discourse, or exciting ridicule by their awkwardness or a sense of weariness by their tame monotony. The latter is, alas, by far the more frequent occurrence. Too often is excellent matter

disfigured by an execrable manner. We read with amazement how Edmund Burke, man though he was of deep political insight, multifarious learning and refined taste, so marred his matchless periods by an unhappy, halting delivery as to drive his fondest admirers from the house—glad to climb over or crawl under the benches—no shift too mean so they could escape his inharmonious tones.

And yet attention to these points and sedulous cultivation may correct many defects and evolve capabilities for graceful elocution that were undreamed of before. To this matter, if to any, the maxim, *nihil sine labore*, is applicable. Too often in other departments of life, even with labor we have nothing. But in this corner of the vineyard of self-improvement every laborer has his due reward. In the page of history this truth is exemplified—and it is to the lives of those who have triumphed over difficulty that we should look for encouragement, when like mountains of difficulty frown down upon us. Demosthenes tells us how scantily nature endowed him with the graces of the orator and he tells us of his long struggle to overcome that disability. Looking for an example to Ireland—that *opificina oratorum* of modern times—the tongue of “stuttering Jack” Curran, after ceaseless drilling, became amenable to control and grew eloquent pleading in the Senate for the liberties of his country and, at the Bar, for the misguided enthusiasts of '98. Macready, one of the brightest ornaments of the English stage, ascribed his success to industry alone—disclaiming, doubtless with too great modesty, any natural talent for his profession. Thus men who, by their own confession verified by their contemporaries, were handicapped beyond most of their competitors, have by dauntless will distanced all others at last. Let us see in this the necessity of going into training in this direction—assured of our reward if we do but try.